

[15th May, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

fund by way of Grants-in-aid and loan, which will, *inter-alia*, also cater for salary and other payments to the staff working in Prasar Bharati (Doordarshan/ AIR). Prasar Bharati has also been permitted to retain its commercial revenue with itself.

(c) to (e) The change over in no way affects the continuity of service of employees working in Prasar Bharati and their salaries and allowances are being paid as per existing pay and allowances applicable to Central Government employees. Further, process has been initiated for finalizing the terms and conditions of service of the employees.

Vacancies in the Prasar Bharati Board

5247. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are number of vacancies presently in the 15-member Prasar Bharati Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor; and

(c) a time-frame for rectifying the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Presently, vacancies exist for the posts of Chairman, Executive Member, Member (Finance), Member (Personnel), three part-time Members, ex-officio Members Director General (Akashwani) and Director General (Doordarshan) and two elected Members. As per Section 4(1) of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, the Chairman, whole-time Members and part-time members of Prasar Bharati Board are appointed on the recommendation of a Committee Chaired by Hon'ble Vice-President of India. The Committee had desired certain clarifications on, *inter-alia*, the service conditions of the whole time members, including the Chief Executive Officer of the Prasar Bharati Board for the purpose of finalisation of selection. Rules relating to these are under final stages of formulation. However, no time frame can be laid down for filling up the vacancies.

Banning of Liquor Advertisements

5248. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Press Council of India has given any suggestion with regard to banning of liquor advertisements in newspapers and electronic media;

(b) if so, the detail thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction and decision on this suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Press Council of India in its meeting held at Lucknow has decided to advise the Central Government to take a definite stand on the prohibition or production and consumption of liquor and to advise all the States to impose a blanket ban on the publication of advertisement of liquor by the print media and by audio visual advertisement. A copy of the minutes of the meeting have been forwarded by the Council to this Ministry on 11th May, 2000.

Repetition of certain Serials

5249. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan is repeating some serials on Mughal dynasty on main Doordarshan channel;

(b) if so, what are the names of serials on Mughal dynasty having already completed their telecast and serials currently in the air;

(c) whether it is also a fact that after showing the main serials on Mughal dynasty, the individual characters of the same story are being telecast on prime time in more than 104 episodes;

(d) if so, the reasons for approving serials with same, story;

(e) whether Government would enquire into this matter by an independent authority; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The fact is that a serial titled "Akbar the Great" produced by Shri Akbar Khan was telecast on DD-1 for 49 episodes in 1995-96. This was a purely historical serial on the life of great Mughal Emperor Akbar. Now DD-1 is telecasting a serial titled